



# **SAMHSA'S PRINCIPLES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES**



## **OUR VISION IS:**

For children and youth to live full lives in the community, including an education, job preparation, and meaningful relationships with friends and family.

## **OUR MISSION IS TO:**

Improve outcomes for children with, or at risk for, mental and/or substance use disorders, and their families by increasing access to a continuum of comprehensive, integrated, quality services and supports—that includes prevention, early intervention, and treatment.

## **OUR KEY PRINCIPLES**

### **PRINCIPLE #1:**

Children need to be viewed and understood within a developmental framework.

### **PRINCIPLE # 2:**

Children are a part of families, so families need to be viewed and understood holistically.

### **PRINCIPLE #3:**

Prevention, early intervention, and treatment must be provided within a public health context, along a continuum, and must address risk and protective factors.

### **PRINCIPLE #4:**

Services and supports for children, adolescents, and their families should be family-driven and youth-guided; culturally and linguistically competent; individualized and strengths-based; and community-based.

### **PRINCIPLE #5:**

Behavioral health care needs to be comprehensive, coordinated, and integrated across multiple child- and family-serving systems.